Sam. J. May Jr.
Sept. 14, 1847.

Boston, Tuesday Evening Sept. 14. 1847.

My dear Sir,

I am very glad of an opportunity to write you a few lines, and to thank you for those you so kindly sent to me by Mr. Maynard of your town, whose acquaintance I have been pleased to make. — And I must thank you, with all my heart, for your approval of my letters in the "Standard", and "Chr. World" — the latter designed originally for Register, but refused there. While you commend, I can certainly bear more easily the condemnation of the many, & their alienation from me. Circumstances of late have made me more of a letter-writer for the papers than I could wish to be, for my comfort; you will before this, probably, have noticed another letter of mine, but written sometime before either of the two above-named — copied into Liberator of week before last from the (London) Inquirer. This letter, in which I speak so distinctly of Dr. Parkman, and ~~bring~~ state certain facts respecting him, I felt bound to write, or else tacitly allow that, under the shield of a correspondence which I supposed would never be made public at all, I had meanly & falsely attempted to injure Dr. P. in the estimation of individual Unitarians abroad. I see no cause to regret my letter; but I should like your judgment upon it. I have not fallen in with Dr. Parkman, since it has been published.

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He will perhaps deny what I have said of him. It is nevertheless every word true, according to my best recollection, which I am sure is not essentially at fault. I can bring no human witnesses, save that I know there were others who heard him make the declaration, with the greatest positiveness, that "no letter on Slavery shd. ever go forth from the Unitⁿ Assᵒciation";— and before 24 hours had elapsed, I charged him with the words in open meeting of the A.A.S. (which circumstance will be remembered by many) and no one, not the Dr. himself. (who was present), denied the words, but S. Osgood & Providence make a lame excuse for them. But let him deny them all; I have other facts concerning Dr. P., to which I have witnesses, which are as telling against him as either one I mentioned.

I have read your Sermon (Cambridge) with very great pleasure. It reads excellently well, and I thank you for the copy you sent to me. Copies have also been sent, probably by your direction, to my Father & bro. John, who are much delighed to you for the same. The Daily Whig of today commends it, and makes an extract from it. I have obtained copies of C. & Nichols, according to your request, and addressed them to the six gentlemen you named, viz. Messrs. Hampton & Webb of Dublin, Martineau &

Liverpool, James of Bristol, P. P. Carpenter, and Geo. Thompson, M. P.; - and, also, Copies (as you gave me leave) to Rev. Dr. Hutton of London, Rev. Francis Bishop of Exeter, and John B. Estlin Esq.r of Bristol — all sterling, noble men. These pamphlets I shall forward by first unexpensive opp.o To send pamphlets to England, by Mail, subjects the receivers to very great, sometimes to enormous, portage charges, as they have informed me, and as I know by the following incident. I had made up quite a small parcel of pamphlets, to go to Mr. Estlin by one of the Packet-ships, as Father said it could, and as I supposed it had. The next I heard of it, it had been refused by the Liverpool agent, to whose care I had directed it, because the abominable charge of £2 "9" 0, postage, had been made upon it; and the pamphlets never reached their destination. It appeared that the parcel had been, through stupidity or mischief, thrown into the packet's mailbag.

Speaking of Dr. Hutton, I want to give you an extract from a letter which he lately wrote to Rev. Geo. Armstrong of Bristol, and which Mr. A. quotes for me in a recent letter. I sh.d delight to make Dr. H.'s sentiments, as there expressed, public, but of course am not at liberty to do so, in the circumstances. But I have repeatedly read them to others, and

so much as that, I should be glad to have you do, on suitable occasions. Dr. Hutton says: ('19th July last)

"Even Unitarian Christy, it seems, cannot expel that "fear of man which worketh a snare". Nothing could be more weak & inconsistent than to lay Mr. May's 2nd resolution on - the phrase sh^d. rather be under - the table, after affirming his first" .... "When I read the debates in the various ecclesiastical meetings on this subject, I begin to doubt whether the profession does not exert an emasculating influence and whether priests of all sects are not by nature cowards. I wonder whether the new Constitution of the A. U. Assoc^n. was resolved upon to get rid of the difficulty in which they involve themselves by the choice of Dr. Whitridge, - and whether the 15 Vice Presidents were struck off to avoid the odium of selecting the slaveholder for exclusion. If so, the Association is disgraced by the very act that purifies it."

I wish every Unitarian pope & priest might know what Dr. Hutton thinks & says of them. Dr. H. stands as high among English Unitarians, as any man in their ranks.

I fear I shall not be able to send you the book you write for, - "Life of Ward". It is not in our office - Mr. Wallcut knows not where it is to be got; - R. Pillsbury said he believed he had seen such a volume at Mr. Garrison's, but knew not where one could be obtained.

I heard good accounts of my family this morning - they are all at Leicester. It is a hard trial to me to be so little with them. Last Sunday I preached, as Agent, at E. Needham. Somehow people opened their eyes very widely;

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and Mr. Whitaker said I was a very bold man. If ~~tha~~ what I said was being bold, our country and the prevailing ideas of the community must be horribly corrupt, again humanity, & defiant of God. It would indeed appear that the climax of all audacity & fanaticism, at the present day, is to ask men to believe God and obey Him; to accept the very first principles of morals, and to refrain from ~~committing~~ the vilest & meanest crimes! If so, we must be bold, or dumb, or ministers & pandars to all that God does abhor, & man ought to. The choice may involve peril, but there it is. —

Garrison & Douglass have been stirring up the West amazingly! Meetings of 3000, 4000, 5000 people at once! Lately, an Anti-Slavery 4 days' meeting was held at Harwich on Cape Cod, at which it is estimated 7000 persons were present! I wish I could have gone & seen, and so had gone.

I sent the "Lecture" to my wife, which you sent to me, for her. She writes me that she has read it, also your Cambridge Sermon, which I sent to her, with much pleasure.

Did you get a letter from me, soon after your return, respecting the application of Rev. Mr. Saul? (If I have his name right). You say nothing about it.

Mr. Wallcut told me that, in a late letter which Mrs. Garrison had received from Miss Charlotte Coffin, it

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was said you had received, from Gerrit Smith, a special invitation to visit him – as if on some business. We shall be glad to hear what it's about, if it may be told. We are Yankees enough for that. —

So far as I know, your friends, hereabouts, are well. Still there has been much sickness in Boston & vicinity. Dysentery, &c. have been very prevalent & fatal. You will doubtless learn, before this, of the death of Patrick T. Jackson – a man whose loss is very keenly felt by many here.

Let me tell you of a remarkable circumstance, if it be true, of which Father was informed today by Mr. H. G. Rice – viz. that Louis Dwight, Sec. of Prison Discipline Soc.y, has entirely lost his mind, & become quite idiotic!! You will remember the recent sharp & protracted controversy in the P. D. Society? It was said, at the time, that Mr. Dwight declared, that, if the discussion was not terminated soon, he should go crazy – he couldn't bear the strain, the pressure, the excitement, the pain, it caused him. Mr. Rice told Father he knew it was so.

Let me tell you another piece of news! David Fosdick jr. (there is nothing reverend to him) is to preach his Farewell sermon next Sunday!! I knew, & said, from the beginning (I really did – this is no afterthought) that Fosdick never could build up that Society – was not equal to the ordinary demands of a City Society, much lefs of those of Hollis St., as they were. But I didn't expect the downfall would come so soon! – Much love to Cousin Lucretia, and to all your family. Your affect.e Cousin, Sam.l May Jr.

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